



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

is assigned. In his support of the cause of education, in his conciliatory attitude toward the North, in his advocacy of universal prohibition, in his discouragement of the planting of tobacco, in his condemnation of duelling, in his efforts for the peaceable abolition of slavery, he was surely, in the words of one historian, "in power of foresight . . . the most remarkable of all his Virginia contemporaries of his own generation".

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to praise, not only the thorough and the attractive manner in which Dr. Bruce has treated his subject, but also the discrimination he continually displays. His attitude toward the great founder and father of the institution whose fortunes he is tracing is throughout highly appreciative and respectful, but it is never marred by subservience or by uncritical extravagance of laudation. In the matter, for example, of Jefferson's stand in relation to the proposed removal of William and Mary College to Richmond, Dr. Bruce's own unpartizan bearing demands nothing but praise. He is ready also to point out firmly the meretriciousness of Jefferson's taste in English literature (I. 30), going farther than I myself should be willing to do, if he means to cite as illustrative the old statesman and philosopher's preference for Homer over Milton. The proof-reading has been good, but, as is to be expected in a work of such scope, not impeccable. For example, Nimes (I. 36) has loaned "salons" (I. 57) its circumflex; the poet Praed appears as "William Mackworth" instead of Winthrop Mackworth (I. 362); we read of *De Arta Poetica* (II. 86); and at more than one place we encounter the strange noun "doctrinate".

W. P. TRENT.

The Papers of Thomas Ruffin. Collected and edited by J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON, Alumni Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. Volume III. [Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission.] (Raleigh: the Commission. 1920. Pp. 464.)

THE third volume of *The Papers of Thomas Ruffin*, like the preceding volumes, contains very few letters of the North Carolina chief justice himself; but the letters of other leaders of importance tend to give the work great value to students of American history. The period covered by these letters is 1859-1865. The men whose names appear most frequently in the book are Weldon Edwards, Paul Cameron, David L. Swain, Kenneth Rayner, and others then well known in all that region of the country.

A significant note may be seen in the following quotation from a letter of the ex-Governor, Charles Manly, a Whig of the best traditions:

I want to knock down a John Browner so bad I *dunno* what to do. I don't think the country will *bust up* yet. The people will save it in spite of the politicians, demagogues and fanatics. It can't be possible that the advocates of treason, murder and stealing can overturn and destroy this great Confederacy (p. 59).

An even more suggestive line of thought may be seen in the following (December, 1861) from Kenneth Rayner, one of the important national Democratic leaders during the Clay and Polk days:

I tried to sound public opinion as it exists among plain country people. I was mortified to find, as far as I could ascertain, that the feeling in that section . . . was in a great measure in favor of "the Union at all hazards"—in other words, unqualified submission. I heard from several sources that the people who did not own slaves were swearing that they "would not lift a finger to protect rich men's negroes". You may depend on it, my dear Judge, that this feeling prevails to an extent you do not imagine (p. 109).

One of the wisest bits of advice in the volume is to be found in a letter (February 4, 1861) from Thomas P. Devereaux, a Federalist of the old school, a great planter, and chairman of the county court of Halifax:

It seems to me now that the difference between the right of secession and of revolutionary resistance is merely nominal, revolution is implied in secession and in the reverse. . . . A spirit is abroad which I fear will sooner or later destroy our Union and that spirit is mainly evidenced by [the] declaration that obedience to the Federal powers, allegiance to the Union, is subordinate to that due the individual states (pp. 118-119).

Ruffin was a respected and thoughtful moderate Unionist who served his state in the Peace Conference, not one who believed too strongly in democracy or the wisdom of common men, and to him, apparently, the best men of North Carolina wrote their hopes and their fears. All finally went into the revolution of which Devereaux spoke, and all of them lost about all the property they had accumulated through the toil of half a century. But the old judge bore his disasters as became a philosopher. Devereaux lost a great plantation and his little army of slaves. Manly, the hot-tempered Whig, likewise lost his all; and poor Rayner, who hated Yankees as Frenchmen hate Germans, emigrated to start afresh in Alabama, and thence found his way to Washington to take a subordinate place under President Grant! But it is never given to contemporaries to know what will be the consequences of given lines of action, and the historian dares not condemn in others what he, as a citizen, probably would have approved.

Messrs. Hamilton and Connor have done a good thing in bringing out these instructive evidences of the thought of a sorely tried commonwealth in 1861.

WILLIAM E. DODD.